CUST#880012
NPO#AVI-P0007-USA:0/初稿/

Remarks

Claims 1, 4, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hayakawa et al. (US 5,550,938). Claims 2-3 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayakawa et al. in view of Shih (US 6,504,626).

1. Rejection of claims 1, 4, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b):

Claims 1, 4, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hayakawa et al. (US 5,550,938) for reasons of record, as recited on pages 2-3 of the above-indicated Office action (part of paper no.10).

Response:

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome this rejection. Claim 1 now states that the output port of the scanner "...directly transmits the image data converted by the control unit to the storage device without the need of a host to control image data transmission." That is, the scanner can directly transmit image data to an external portable storage device, and no host computer or other host device is needed for controlling the data transfer. The amendments made to claim 1 are supported by the specification, and no new matter has been added. Support for these amendments will be explained below.

As stated on page 5, lines 11-14, the scanner 10 contains "...a connecting port 22 installed on the casing and electrically connected to the control unit 16 foroptionally connecting the scanner 10 to a computer 24."

In addition, it is shown that the control program 28can completely control the transmission of data from the scanner 10 to the storage device 21, without the need of a host device. This is stated in the specification on page 5, lines 27-32: "When the scanning module 14 finishes scanning the document 13, **the control program 28** identifies the device connected to the output port 18 and then **controls the transmission of the image data 30 of the document 13 from the memory 26 to the storage device 21 or to the printer 20 via the output port 18. Hence, the image data 30 need not be processed by the computer 24.**"

The specification is summarized on page 7, lines 3-4 by repeating that "Hence, **no host computer is required to perform printing or storing of scanning data**"

Hayakawa (US 5,550,938), on the other hand, teaches a scanner that needs to be connected to a host, such as a personal computer or a word processor, in order to transfer image data from the scanner to a storage device. The scanner can be used alone to scan images, but **must be linked to a host when data is desired to be transferred.** The scanner, does not operate as a host when transferring images. Hayakawa states this in col.3, lines 43-55 and also in col.4, lines 1-7. In addition, in col.4, lines 49-54, Hayakawa states that only when switch 3c(3) is pressed, will the data be transferred from the reading buffer 62 of the image scanner 1 to the host computer 21. Therefore, Hayakawa does not teach transferring image data directly from the scanner to an external portable storage device without the need of a host.

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The main difference between the present invention and Hayakawa is that Hayakawa requires that the scanner be connected to a host device, whereas the present invention can use a portable storage device to connect to the scanner for transferring images. Moreover, **the portable storage device used with the present invention scanner does not act as a host device.** The portable storage device can be a compact disc or a USB flash drive, which are all very portable and can be conveniently carried.

Shih (US 6,504,626) teaches sending data to an electric device 64, col.3, lines 10-26. However, Shih does not teach or suggest sending data to a portable external storage device for storing the image data produced by the scanner.

Since neither Hayakawa nor Shih teach directly transmitting image data to an portable external storage device without the need of a host to control image data transmission, claim 1 cannot be unpatentable over Hayakawa et al. in view of Shih. Claims 4 and 5 are dependent on claim 1 and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed. Reconsideration of claims 1, 4, and 5 is hereby requested.

2. Rejection of claims 2-3 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 2-3 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayakawa et al. in view of Shih (US 6,504,626) for reasons of record, as recited on pages 3-5 of the above-indicated Office action (part of paper no.10).

Response:

Like claim 1 described above, claim 6 has also been

amended to overcome this rejection. Claim 6 is now amended to state that the control unit "..directly transmits the image data converted by the control unit to the storage device via the output port without the need of a host to control image data transmission...".

Since neither Hayakawa nor Shih teach directly transmitting image data to the storage device without the need of a host to control image data transmission, claim 6 cannot be unpatentable over Hayakawa et al. in view of Shih. Moreover, claims 2-3 and 7-8 are dependent on their respective base claims and should be allowed if the respective base claims are allowed. Reconsideration of claims 2-3 and 6-8 is hereby requested.

3. Amendment to the specification:

The first paragraph of the Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment has been amended to add a reference number to the connecting port 22. This change corrects a clerical error, and is supported by Figs.2 and 4 of the present invention. No new matter had been added through this change.

Respectfully submitted,

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